

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A set of handcuffs comprising:
a pair of openable bracelet sections, each of said bracelet sections including a locking mechanism for opening and closing a said bracelet section;
linkage means for tethering said bracelet sections together; and
a restraint mechanism connected to said linkage means, said mechanism permitting ~~a~~ at least one bracelet section to be angularly rotated about a linkage axis extending through said linkage means and said bracelet sections so as to rotate said bracelet section to a predetermined angular position relative thereto wherein rotation of said at least one bracelet section in a first rotational direction about said linkage axis enables said bracelet section to assume at least one angular locking position and in which said restraint mechanism includes means for preventing said bracelet section from being rotated to a previous angular position in a second rotational direction opposite from the first rotational direction once a succeeding angular locking position has been assumed.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanism~~ set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 1, wherein said restraint mechanism includes a ratchet gear that is rotatable about said linkage axis, said ratchet gear having a number of teeth disposed thereabout; and
at least one ratchet pawl engageable with said teeth for preventing said ratchet gear from rotating in ~~a first~~ said second rotational direction upon engagement thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanism~~ set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 2, wherein said restraint mechanism further includes two ratchet pawls, each of said ratchet pawls being disposed on opposite sides of said ratchet gear.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanism~~ set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 3, wherein each of said ratchet pawls are biased into contact with said ratchet gear.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanism~~ set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 4, wherein engagement of the biased ratchet pawls with the teeth of the ratchet gear restricts further movement of the gear in said ~~first~~ second rotational direction about said linkage axis but permits further rotational movement in ~~an~~ the opposite ~~second~~ first rotational direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanism~~ set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one bracelet section can be rotated and locked in at least two (2) ~~2~~ predetermined angular positions.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanism~~ set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one bracelet section can be rotated and locked in at least eight (8) ~~8~~ predetermined angular positions.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~mechanism~~ set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 1, wherein said linkage means includes means for permitting said bracelet sections to be folded onto one another for storage.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of restraining an individual using a set of handcuffs said handcuffs having a pair of bracelet sections separated by a flexible linkage, said method including the steps of:
cuffing an individual using said handcuffs; and

rotating at least one of the bracelet sections of said handcuffs to a predetermined angular position ~~relative to the other of said bracelet sections~~ in a first rotational direction about a linkage axis extending through said flexible linkage and each of said bracelet sections, said handcuffs further including a restraint mechanism having means for preventing said bracelet ~~sections~~ section from being rotated in an opposite second rotational direction to a previous angular position once said ~~locking~~ restraint mechanism has been engaged and said bracelet section has been rotated to at least a first predetermined angular position while permitting said bracelet to be additionally rotated in said first rotational direction.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 7 9, including the step of cuffing said individual behind said individual's back.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 7 9, including the step of cuffing said individual in front of said individual.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 7 9, wherein said rotation step includes the step of rotating ~~said~~ the arms of the cuffed individual relative to one another about the linkage axis.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 7 9, wherein said rotation step includes the step of rotating ~~said~~ the arms of the cuffed individual relative to the linkage axis.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 7 9, including the step of rotating ~~said~~ the arms of the cuffed individual 90 degrees relative to said linkage axis.

15. (New) A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said arm rotation step causes the arms of the cuffed individual to fold into an overlapping position to prevent step through.

16. (New) A method as recited in Claim 9, including the step of uncuffing the individual as the only means of releasing the restraint mechanism once the individual has been cuffed.

17. (New) A method as recited in Claim 9, including the step of providing a detent to indicate to a user when a predetermined locking position has been reached.

18. (New) A set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 1, wherein said linkage means includes at least one pair of link elements which are axially connected to one another by means of at least one interconnecting cover plate.

19. (New) A set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 18, including support yokes provided on said bracelet sections for receiving each of said link elements.

20. (New) A set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 19, wherein at least one of said link elements includes a hub enabling pivotal and axial attachment to said support yoke.

21. (New) A set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 1, including detent means for indicating when a said bracelet section has been rotated to a predetermined locking position.

22. (New) A set of handcuffs as recited in Claim 1, wherein use of said locking mechanism to open said bracelet sections is the only means for resetting the restraint mechanism.